

March 23, 2020

United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives and Senators:

The undersigned groups of national organizations involved in providing elementary and secondary education to the nation's public school students are deeply concerned with the inadequate level of federal support for K12 education in current negotiations for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Just this weekend we shared a joint letter outlining our shared priorities for investment in public K12 education. As negotiations on this package have continued and now include modest funding for K12 education, we remain concerned that the funding level is far too low and will do little to support districts in their response to this growing pandemic, let alone help them navigate the all but certain economic downturn they are about to face. **For the reasons outlined below, we reiterate our request that Congress include at least \$75 billion in funding to states for K12 education.**

In our previous letter, we identified five immediate opportunities for fiscal support for schools and strongly support the inclusion of all five:

- [Provision of Emergency Funding Directly to States to Support Local Education Agencies](#)
- [Emergency Funding for Technology for Remote Learning](#)
- [Federal Medical Assistance Percentage \(FMAP\) for Medicaid](#)
- [Include Public Employers in Payroll Tax Credit](#); and
- [Paid Sick Leave](#)

With combined funding to K-12 and higher education totaling \$20 billion in one package, and \$30 billion in another, these numbers are a mere fraction of levels made available in previous emergency funding: The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) totaled \$840 billion, with \$60 billion made available in stabilization funds for schools. With current funding negotiations exceeding two trillion, a proportionate investment would far exceed the proposed \$30 billion. That is why Congress should include at least \$75 billion in funding to states for K12 education in this package, and make more available in any subsequent emergency funding bills.

Thank you for your quick work on this important legislative package. We strongly urge you increase the provision of funding to states to support local education agencies.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of Teachers
Council of Great City Schools
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Education Association
National School Boards Association

CC: U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives